Condition of Almatti Dam

*332. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the recent heavy rains and flood devastation in Mumbai and areas around, Government have caused thorough check of the condition of Almatti Dam;

(b) if so, how far it is in good condition and what upgradation and augmentation is considered necessary to ensure that the dam is able to withstand future onslaught and natural calamity;

(c) the estimated cost of such augmentation of the dam; and

(d) the Central aid sought and given for the same?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN-SOZ): (a) The Almatti Dam across the river Krishna in the State of Karnataka has been constructed and designed with probable maximum flood of 10.95 lakh cubic feet per second (31,007 cubic metre per second). The Government of Karnataka has reported that in the recent floods occurred during monsoon 2005, the maximum flood observed at dam site was of the order of 4.52 lakh cubic feet per second and there was no adverse effect on the dam. As per the post monsoon inspection carried out by the Government of Karnataka, it is found that the condition of the dam is generally good for normal operations.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Tax free interest on term deposits

†*333. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to make interest on term deposits tax free; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it would be effective?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.